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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Whitlock et al.) Atty. Docket: 16600.105007
Application No.: 09/778,220) Art Unit: 3629
Filing Date: February 6, 2001) Examiner: Jamisue A. Webb
Title: Method and System For) Confirmation No.: 5736
Transferring Connecting)
Baggage)

DECLARATION OF ALICJA BROWN

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

I, Alicja Brown, residing at 3982 Spalding Hollow; Norcross, GA, 30092, and being duly warned, hereby declare and say:

1. I am submitting this declaration in response to the Official Action that was mailed on May 18, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application, and to establish the following:
 - (A) the combination of the technical specification and drawing set for the present patent application discloses a representative "working" example, including variables and representative values, of how to support an efficient transfer of items, such as baggage, from an inbound flight to one or more outbound flights;
 - (B) and one of ordinary skill in the art in the field of Industrial Engineering would be able to read the present application and utilize the representative "working" example to make and/or use the invention defined by Claims 1-25 of the present application, without undue experimentation.

Background on Declarant/Inventor

2. I certify that my educational background includes the following:
 - 1997 - 2002: B.S. Industrial Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology - Atlanta, GA.
3. I certify that I have previously held the following positions of employment relating to Industrial Engineering:
 - 2005 - 2006: The Home Depot, Store Support Center - Atlanta, Georgia
 - Black Belt
 - Work included utilizing the DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control) methodology to increase process efficiency and effectiveness
 - 2002 - 2005: Naval Surface Warfare Center - Indian Head, MD
 - 2005: Project Manager
 - 2004 - 2005: Lean Six Sigma Coordinator
 - 2002 - 2004: Reengineering Project Manager
 - Managed production program and developed, tracked, and reported team progress and metrics for all lean efforts.
 - 1998 - 2002: Centennial Farms Dairy - Atlanta, GA
 - Co-op Student
 - Participated on process improvement teams and built and implemented activity based costing model.
4. I certify that I have no connection with the inventors of U.S. Application No. 09/778,220, entitled "Method and System for Transferring Connecting Baggage," that was filed on February 6, 2001.
5. I certify that the subject matter of the above referenced application is related to the technical field of Industrial Engineering.

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6. I consider myself to be one of ordinary skill in the technical field of Industrial Engineering. I am making this Declaration as one of ordinary skill in the art for this field.
7. I am being compensated at the rate of \$100 per hour for my time spent reviewing the relevant materials and preparing this declaration.

The Present Application Presents an Enabling Disclosure for the Invention of Claims 1-25

8. I understand that the Examiner has alleged that the present application fails to comply with the enablement requirement because the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. I further understand that the Examiner has alleged that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to read the present application and determine how to calculate potential assignments and routes and determine the assignment with the lowest cost value and shortest route, without undue experimentation.
9. I certify that I have reviewed the present application in preparation of this Declaration, which includes portions of the specification and corresponding figures disclosing subject matter relevant to calculating potential assignments and routes and selecting the assignment with the lowest cost value and shortest route. Furthermore, I certify that I have reviewed the Official Action dated May 18, 2006 in preparation of this Declaration.
10. As one of ordinary skill in the art, I certify that the disclosure of the present application, presents an enabling disclosure sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the art in the field of Industrial Engineering to achieve a calculation of a plurality of costs of potential assignments and a selection of an assignment with the lowest cost value, as recited by independent Claims 1 and 20, without undue experimentation.
11. The disclosure of page 9, lines 3-26 and the illustration of Figure 6 provides a representative "working" example of a calculation of a plurality of costs of potential

assignments and a selection of an assignment with the lowest cost value. For example, Figure 6 presents representative assignment solution combinations for the disclosed assignment example defined by delivering the sample number of bags to a sample number of stops for five airport zones (TGT, ASE, ANE, ANO, ASO). Figure 6 also identifies numerical values for variables used in the cost equation identified by Page 8, lines 5-11, including Max bags, Max stops, Target bags, Target stops, Driver cost, Bag cost, Stop cost, Balance cost, and a Pair cost. Furthermore, the cost equation identified by Page 8, lines 5-11, can be rewritten with variables as disclosed on page 11, lines 4-10.

12. Despite the disclosure of a representative "working" example of a calculation of a plurality of costs of potential assignments and a selection of an assignment with the lowest cost value, I understand that the Examiner still maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would be unable to perform the calculation of the potential assignments because the one of ordinary skill in the art "would have to do undue experimentation to determine the cost of all the weighting factors, and how they are determined."
13. As one of ordinary skill in the art, I certify that the weighting factors, or "costs", are variables that are typically utilized in optimization solutions, such as the solution disclosed in U.S. Application No. 09/778,220. Furthermore, I certify that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the values of the weighting factors are representative values that can be manipulated by an individual to achieve a different solution based on which variables the individual considers to be most important, without undue experimentation.
14. I certify that it would not require undue experimentation for one of ordinary skill in the art to manipulate the values of the weighting factors in association with the cost equation to determine a desired efficiency based on that individual's preferences with respect to their operating environment.
15. Specifically, I certify that one of ordinary skill in the art could utilize the representative "working" example and its associated variables and values described in the present

application as a starting point. Thereafter, one of ordinary skill in the art could manipulate these values in association with the cost equation to tailor the solution for their environment, such as a different airport. I certify that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that manipulation of weighting factor values is a typical function in solving optimization solutions as disclosed in the present invention.

16. Therefore, I certify that one of ordinary skill in the art of industrial engineering would be able to use the representative working example disclosed in the present application, including the representative values for the weighting factors, to calculate the plurality of costs of potential assignments and to select an assignment with the lowest cost value, without undue experimentation.
17. I further declare that my statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on the information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements and the like so made may jeopardize the validity of this declaration, the subject application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Respectfully submitted,

Alicja Brown

Alicja Brown

11/17/06

Date